

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 INSE-00

SCA-01 L-03 SS-20 SAM-01 SP-03 PRS-01 NSC-07 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /069 W

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O 091713Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2625

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 5723

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: SUGGESTED REPLY TO NOTE
ON BRACEROS

REFS: A) STATE 144495

B) MEXICO 5172

C) MEXICO 5239

1. THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS GENERAL TONE AND THRUST OF DRAFT REPLY NOTE CONTAINED DEPTTEL EXACTLY RIGHT. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, RABASA EXPLAINED MOTIVES FOR NOTE AS NEED TO DEAL WITH CRITICAL PRESS. EMBASSY AGREES THAT WE SHOULD NOT ENTER INTO POLEMICS WITH FONSEC ON THIS ISSUE. HOWEVER, OUR REPLY TO JUNE 19 NOTE PROVIDES EXCELLENT AND UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT TO MEXICAN PUBLIC OPINION USG POSITION ON THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM AS WELL AS TO RESPOND IN FIRM BUT FRIENDLY MANNER TO MEXICAN NOTE. THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT/BRACERO ISSUE HAS BEEN A MATTER OF INTENSE INTEREST IN THE MEDIA, FREQUENTLY FRONT-PAGED IN THE MEXICAN PRESS, SINCE THE DELIVERY OF RABASA'S NOTE ON JUNE 19. WITH FOREGOING IN MIND, EMBASSY SUGGESTS ADDITION TO DEPARTMENT TEXT AS SET FORTH BELOW.

2. SUGGESTED ADDITIONS OR CHANGES IN NOTE AS FOLLOWS
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(ADDITIONS OR CHANGES WILL BE IN PARENTHESES):

(A) FIRST PARAGRAPH - AFTER HONOR, - INSERT
(UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,).

(B) THIRD PARAGRAPH - BEGINNING WITH - MY
GOVERNMENT IS SINCERELY AND SERIOUSLY CONCERNED... -
INSERT FOLLOWING SENTENCE BETWEEN FIRST AND SECOND
SENTENCES. (NOT ONLY DO THESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
IMPOSE A VERY SUBSTANTIAL BURDEN UPON UNITED STATES
TAXPAYERS AT FEDERAL, STATE, AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS, BUT
ALSO BECAUSE OF THEIR ILLEGAL STATUS, THEY CONSTITUTE
A VIRTUALLY CLANDESTINE ELEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.
BECAUSE OF THEIR TENDENCY TO AVOID ANY CONTACT WITH
UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES, IN ORDER NOT TO BE RETURNED
TO MEXICO, THESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAN NOT EASILY BE
PROTECTED, ASSISTED, OR BROUGHT UNDER THE RULE OF LAW.)

(C) THIRD PARAGRAPH - INSERT FOLLOWING SENTENCE
AT END OF PARAGRAPH. (I AM THEREFORE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED
AND PUZZLED BY THE COMMENT, CONTAINED IN YOUR EXCELLENCY'S
NOTE, THAT THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES MERELY TOOK NOTE
OF MEXICAN VIEWS.)

(D) FIFTH PARAGRAPH - BEGINNING WITH - IT WAS ALSO
SUGGESTED... - INSERT FOLLOWING SENTENCES AT END OF
PARAGRAPH; ALSO ADD NEW PARAGRAPH AS NOTED. (AS YOUR
EXCELLENCY IS AWARE, LARGE NUMBER OF MEXICAN CITIZENS
ENTER THE UNITED STATES LEGALLY EACH YEAR (ALMOST 67,000
IN FISCAL YEAR 1974) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING
RESIDENCE AND SEEKING EMPLOYMENT. THE UNITED STATES
WELCOMES SUCH LEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHOSE NUMBER CONSTITUTES,
IN SOME DEGREE, THE CONCEPT OF AN "ANNUAL QUOTA"
SUGGESTED IN YOUR EXCELLENCY'S NOTE UNDER REFERENCE.)

NEW PARAGRAPH: (MY GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT OF THE
HIGHEST IMPORTANCE, IN CONSIDERING THIS PROBLEM, THAT
ACCURATE DISTINCTION BE MADE BETWEEN THE TWO MAJOR ELEMENTS
OF THE ISSUE. THE QUESTION OF A NEW BRACERO-TYPE PROGRAM
IS ONE OF THESE ELEMENTS. AS INDICATED ABOVE, THE VIEW OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS THAT A NEW BRACERO-
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TYPE PROGRAM IS NOT A FEASIBLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF
MEXICAN WORKERS WHO WISH TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES. THE
OTHER MAJOR ELEMENT OF THE PROBLEM IS THAT OF THE ILLEGAL
ENTRY OF MEXICAN CITIZENS INTO THE UNITED STATES. I AM
SURE THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY DOES NOT QUESTION THE RIGHT OF
THE UNITED STATES, IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS SOVEREIGN PRE-
ROGATIVES, TO DETERMINE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH
NATIONALS OF OTHER COUNTRIES MAY ENTER ITS TERRITORY. EVERY

SOVERIEGN STATE DETERMINES SUCH CONDITIONS AND CONTROLS THE ENTRY OF FOREIGNERS AND THEIR STAY IN THE COUNTRY.)

(E) SIXTH PARAGRAPH - BEGINNING WITH - UNITED STATES LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, - INSERT AFTER "ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES", - (... IN THE EXERCISE OF THE UNITED STATES SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY TO CONTROL IMMIGRATION INTO THE UNITED STATES,)

(F) SIXTH PARAGRAPH - INSERT FOLLOWING SENTENCE AFTER SECOND SENTENCE - ENDING WITH WORD "FACILITIES". (THIS GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO AS TO PROCEDURES WHICH MIGHT BE DEVELOPED WHICH WOULD BETTER COORDINATE PROCESSING OF THESE MEXICAN CITIZENS FROM UNITED STATES INSTALLATIONS INTO ANY MEXICAN RECEPTION PROGRAMS WHICH MAY NOW OR IN THE FUTURE EXIST FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING SUCH CITIZENS TO RETURN TO FRUITFUL PURSUITS IN MEXICO AND DESIST FROM SEEKING ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES.)

(G) SEVENTH PARAGRAPH - ADDITION TO THIRD SENTENCE - COMPLETE SENTENCE IS AS FOLLOWS - (I AM PLEASED THAT MEXICAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS ARE NOW USING THESE FACILITIES TO THE EXTENT MEXICAN AUTHORITIES CONSIDER NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THESE CONSULAR OFFICERS HAVE VOICED NO COMPLAINTS WITH RESPECT TO THE FOOD, THE ACCOMMODATIONS, OR THE TREATMENT ACCORDED MEXICAN NATIONALS WHILE AT THESE PROCESSING CENTERS.)

(H) SEVENTH PARAGRAPH - ADD FOLLOWING SENTENCES TO LAST SENTENCE IN PARAGRAPH ENDING WITH WORDS - "SUITABLE ACTION". (I WISH TO ASSURE YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THESE CENTERS TO INSURE THEIR ORDERLY AND HUMANE FUNCTIONING. UNITED STATES CONSULAR OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO CITIES IN NORTHERN MEXICO ALSO VISIT THE CENTERS, AND A SECOND SECRETARY OF THIS EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO THE CENTERS AT EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA, AND EL PASO, TEXAS. HE CONSULTED WITH MEXICAN CONSUL OFFICIALS IN THE CENTERS, TALKED WITH DETAINEES, AND OBSERVED PROCEDURES AND EXAMINED FACILITIES AT THE INSTALLATIONS. I WISH TO INVITE YOUR EXCELLENCY OR YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO VISIT THE CENTERS AT ANY TIME.) JOVA

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 INSE-00

SCA-01 L-03 SS-20 SAM-01 SP-03 PRS-01 NSC-07 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /069 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2626

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(I) THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES INSERTED AS THE LAST PARAGRAPHS IN THE NOTE. (PARA 1) (RECOGNIZING THE MAGNITUDE AND THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THE PROBLEM OF MEXICAN CITIZENS WHO ILLEGALLY ENTER AND SEEK TO REMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES, IN TERMS OF THE DIFFICULTIES AND INCONVENIENCES CAUSED FOR INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS AS WELL AS GOVERNMENTAL CONCERN, I EARNESTLY REITERATE MY GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT MOST SERIOUSLY CONSIDER WHAT MEASURES IT MAY TAKE TO PREVENT THE ILLEGAL ENTRY OF MEXICAN CITIZENS INTO THE UNITED STATES. (BEGIN 2ND NEW PARA) YOUR EXCELLENCY MAY BE ASSURED THAT MY GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THIS PROBLEM WITH THE MOST SERIOUS CONCERN, IN SEARCH OF THOSE POSSIBILITIES OF SOLUTION WHICH ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS AFFECTED.)

3. IN KEEPING WITH THE CHANGES PROPOSED ABOVE, THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT THE PRESS RELEASE BE EXPANDED WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS: (ADDITIONS OR CHANGES IN PRESS RELEASE WILL BE IN PARENTHESES.)

(A) FIRST PARAGRAPH, FIRST SENTENCE, ADD AFTER - FORMALLY REPLIED, (ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,).

(B) SECOND PARAGRAPH, FIRST SENTENCE, ADD AFTER - LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO ENTER THE UNITED STATES (ILLEGALLY).

(C) SECOND PARAGRAPH - INSERT FOLLOWING SENTENCE BETWEEN FIRST AND SECOND SENTENCES - (THE NOTE RECALLED THAT AT A MEETING IN JULY 1973, BETWEEN COMMITTEES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION PRESENTED THE RESULTS OF ITS STUDIES AND CONCLUSIONS AS WELL AS TAKING NOTE OF THE MEXICAN VIEWS. THE NOTE ALSO REFERRED TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF MEXICAN CITIZENS (ALMOST 67,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 1974) WHO ENTER THE UNITED STATES LEGALLY EACH YEAR FOR PURPOSES OF RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT AND WHO ARE WELCOMED BY THE UNITED STATES.)

(D) INSERT AFTER SECOND PARAGRAPH - AS NEW PARAGRAPH - THE FOLLOWING: (THE REPLY COMMENTED FURTHER ON THE NECESSITY TO MAINTAIN A CLEAR PERSPECTIVE AND DISTINCTION BETWEEN TWO MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE ISSUE UNDER DISCUSSION. FIRST, THE QUESTION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF A NEW BRACERO-TYPE PROGRAM IS A MATTER ON WHICH THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE PREVIOUSLY CONSULTED AND WHICH BOTH WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT BELIEVE A NEW BRACERO PROGRAM IS FEASIBLE. SECOND, THE QUESTION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INTO THE UNITED STATES, AS DISTINCT FROM THE ISSUE OF A BRACERO PROGRAM, RELATES TO THE SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES OR ANY OTHER STATE TO REGULATE AND CONTROL THE ADMISSION OF FOREIGNERS INTO ITS TERRITORY. FACILITIES ESTABLISHED TO PROCESS IN AN ORDERLY MANNER THE REPATRIATION OF FOREIGNERS WHO HAVE ILLEGALLY ENTERED THE UNITED STATES ARE AN INSTRUMENT OF THE SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY REFERRED TO ABOVE.)

(E) THIRD PARAGRAPH - SENTENCE ENDING - "MEXICAN NATIONALS AT THESE CENTERS". - FOLLOWING SENTENCES TO BE ADDED AS END OF PARAGRAPH. (THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS INFORMED THAT THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE CONSTANTLY REVIEWS ITS PROCEDURES TO INSURE ORDERLY AND HUMANE FUNCTIONING OF THESE INSTALLATIONS. UNITED STATES CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM UNITED STATES CONSULATES IN NORTHERN MEXICO ALSO VISIT THE CENTERS, AS HAS A SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN RECENT DAYS. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS INVITED, PERSONALLY OR THROUGH A REPRESENTATIVE, TO VISIT THESE CENTERS AT ANY TIME.)

(F) THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES TO BE INSERTED AS THE LAST PARAGRAPH. (THE NOTE INVITES THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S

SUGGESTIONS AND COOPERATION IN ACTIONS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO MIGHT TAKE TO PREVENT THE ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES OF MEXICAN CITIZENS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IS ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THIS PROBLEM WITH ITS MOST SERIOUS CONCERN, IN SEARCH OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS WHICH MEET THE NEEDS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS AFFECTED.)

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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